ULTIMATE COMICS™
THE ULTIMATES®
ISSUE 09
HICKMAN
RIBIC
WHITE
MARVEL
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AN ELITE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED META-HUMAN TASK FORCE, THEY FACE ANY AND ALL GLOBAL THREATS. LED BY GENERAL

ULTIMATE COMICS

THE ULTIMATES

TWO CITIES. TWO WORLDS.
PART THREE

With war raging between the two new superhuman threats to the world—The People in Tian and Reed Richards' Children of Tomorrow in The City— S.H.I.E.L.D. and The Ultimates are doing everything they can to avert a global disaster.

Desperate, the President enacted the Winter Protocols, with the Joint Chiefs taking direct control of S.H.I.E.L.D. Their first move was to launch the Hulk at The City, hoping he could do enough damage to cripple Reed's efforts; however, Reed cut short the Hulk's rampage, turning him against the United States. Faced by an ever-increasingly powerful City and a weakening nation, the President had no choice but to authorize a full-scale nuclear attack against The City...

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TIAN.
NOW.
Let's go, soldier!
Okay...
RRRRRRR
Hit it.
418

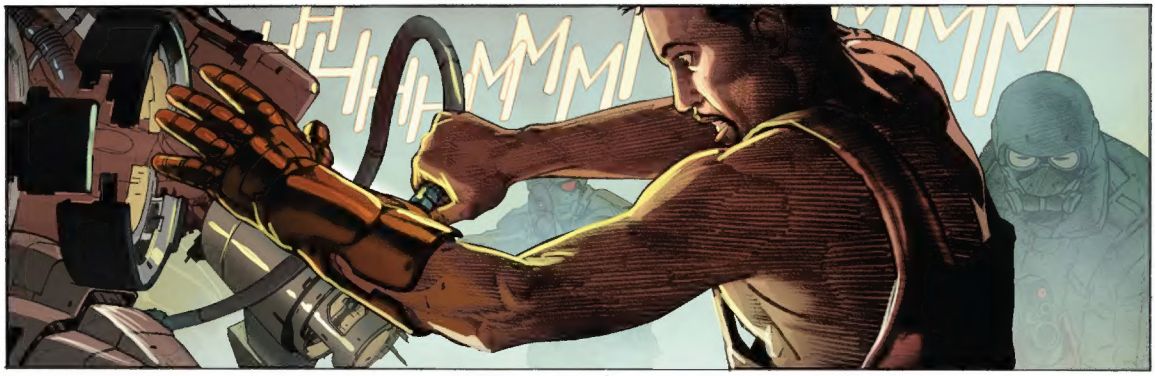
Just wanted to get the big hammer out of storage.
Sure. Big fight, big stick.
Yeah?
Well...just make sure you point that thing in the right direction.
...
Will do, boss.
Why're you looking at me like that?
Do I really need to say it?
You know, we're probably all gonna die-- it should be you staying behind, not Sam.
When I said observe, I meant exactly that. We'll keep our distance, Clint, but I want my own eyes on the first meeting of the People and the Children...
I don't think we have anything to add to this, anyway.
Plus, I needed Sam to decode what happened to our comms and punch through the interference so we can talk to S.H.I.E.L.D. HQ.
Hair's standing up on my neck not knowing if something's happened there or not. If anything has--
Hey! This ain't the time for bad thoughts to cloud your mind.
Keep your eyes pointed forward, and your head in the now...

"...God knows what we're flying into."

THE TRISKELION.
Triskelion secure, Director Flumm.
Good. Take these two to holding and then prepare them for transport to the Cube.
Sir, S.H.I.E.L.D. files show that Captain Britain's abilities lie beyond measurable levels. Are we sure that--
If the Cube can contain She-Hulk, then it most certainly can hold Spider-Woman and Braddock-- Get on with it!
Yes, sir.
Lieutenant, inform the Pentagon that our mission was a complete success--
But sir! There's a problem at Stark Tower--I can't make out exactly what...
Give me that.
Command to S.H.I.E.L.D. ops. What's your status, Captain? Have you secured the targets?
--bztrttjdk--
I repeat... have you secured the targets?

BRRRAATT
WHIM
Thor!
The hovercraft!

I have the vessel, Anthony.
Get us some answers.
YAAAARRRR!
THUM



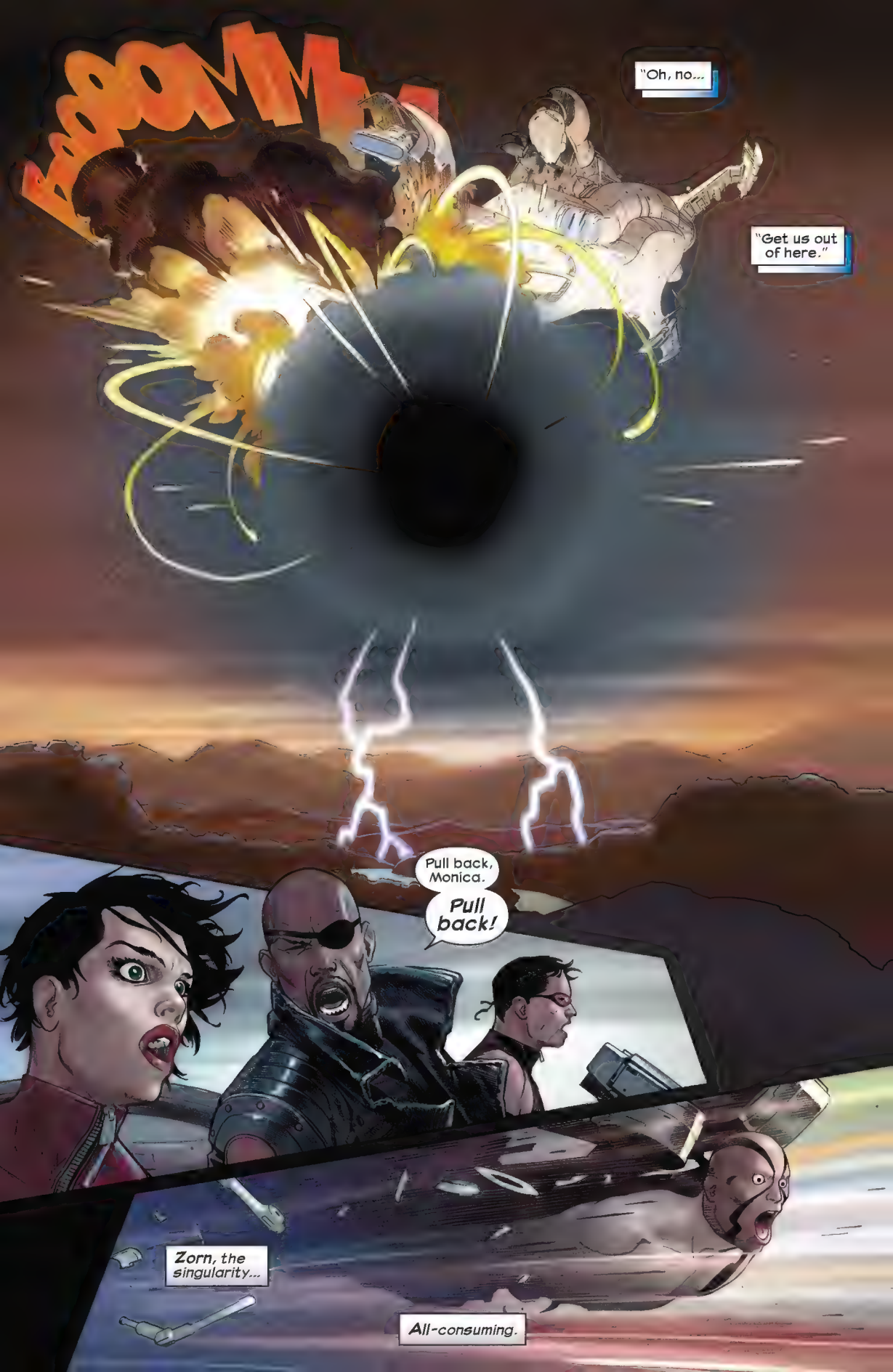
ARRGGHHH!
ZZAAAK
ZZAAAK

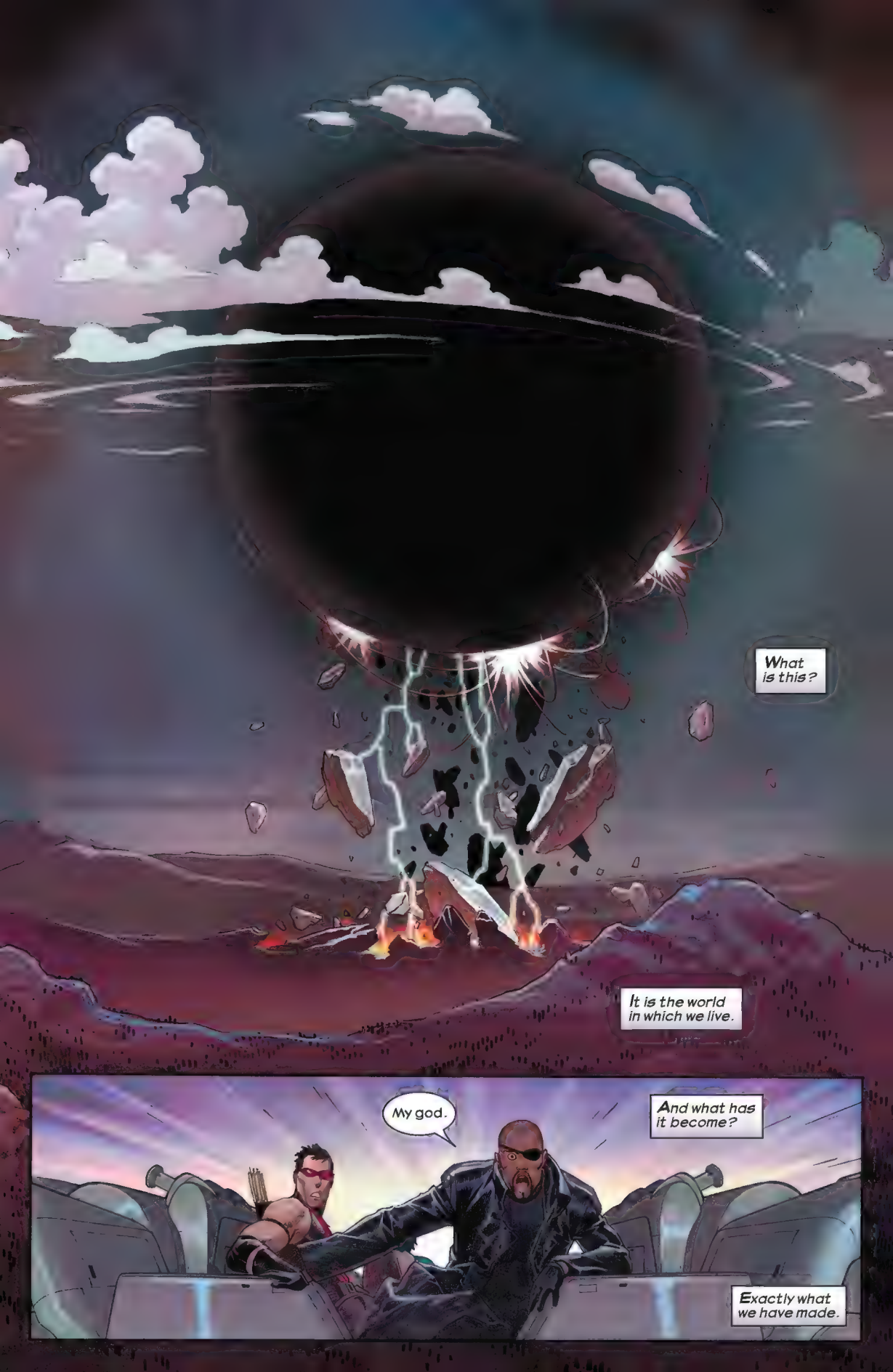
Fury was off grid--off plan... the higher-ups were worried--
Puh-President ordered S.H.I.E.L.D. to shut him down... him and the Ultimates...
Give me all of it.
Launched a full-scale attack on The City... nukes...
Well, you heard the man.
Talk.

Oh...
Okay.
You can pass out now.
Uhhhh.
The hovercraft was stubborn, but has now submitted.
Did you find out anything?
Everything's gone sideways.
I'm going to lock the lab down, then we have to get out of here and find the others.
Tony?
Yeah? What?
Did you get hit...are you...
No. Why?
You're bleeding.
Huh.

NORTHWEST OF TIAN.
They're engaged...
Damn.
Did you see that, Nick?
Uh-huh.
1.56 KM
The People are being slaughtered by the Children.
They're just too advanced...
They adapt too quickly.
What about Zorn? Did you--
Twenty degrees north from our ninety. He's getting ready to be...
Wait...

"He's not doing anything to...
"Hold on...
"He's taking off his helmet. He's...
"Oh...
"He's...
"He's..."


BOOM!
"Oh, no...
"Get us out of here."
Pull back, Monica.
Pull back!
Zorn, the singularity...
All-consuming.


What is this?
It is the world in which we live.
My god.
And what has it become?
Exactly what we have made.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
You...you... you launched our entire nuclear arsenal at the future city?
Everything?
Yes.
We can't do this.
Is there some way to stop it?

No.
It is already done.
This is outrageous.
We cannot stand by and...
It's murder.
Genocide.
Unacceptable.
No! He's right.
Listen to him!
The recent attacks are exactly what the President is talking about.
Congressmen and women, Senators--make no mistake...
The leadership of both parties was informed and in agreement--all relevant data suggested that we were rapidly approaching a point of no return.
We had to act now or we believed The City could have grown too large for us to do anything about it. We had no choice...
We are a country already divided. Half-broken by things seemingly beyond our control.
We did what was necessary...
What had to be done.
May we all find some way to live with what has happened today.

THE CITY.
The Dome is cracked.
The City screams.
Report, First Builder.
Dynamos sacrificed themselves to absorb ninety-two percent of the blast, Maker.
There is structural damage throughout the upper level, and twelve percent of the City is simply gone.
Leeches scrub for radiation, and I have ordered the Builders, Architects and Engineers to begin reconstruction.
What are you not telling me, First Builder?
We lost fourteen cribs, Maker.

See, I told you--predictable.
You were used, again...
They fear us--hate us--because we are better. All this...the last gasp of inevitability.
The world turns against us, Bruce.
Whatever should we do?
HULK ANGRY!
HULK SMASH!
HULK SMASH AMERICA!
Retaliation.
I couldn't agree more.
Bring him closer.
Do you know your name, child?

I have nevvhur rescchheived one, Maker.
Yes, you have, but it was hidden from you...for in giving voice to an idea, you bring that very thing into existence.
See, for centuries, we have bred out the more...base instincts of the human animal from which we evolved--save for one very special exception...
Just the one, just in case.
And after all this, I am ready to speak truth, and bring such a thing into being...
Do you wish to know your name, child?
PU LOP
"Yhesss, Maker. Very mucshhh."

"You are *Death*, the first and last of a generation.
"Where there is life, you will end it.
"Where there was hope, it will die.
"You are the last days...
"The end of an era...

"The boy who killed America."

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